



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Release of PKK Leader Riza Altun

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 26, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States shares Turkey's dismay and concern over the release to Iraq of Riza Altun, a senior leader of the PKK, which is recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

Turkey and the United States have worked closely with several OSCE States to shut down the extensive financial and criminal networks of the PKK in Europe. Several countries have taken positive steps to this end. We call on all OSCE participating States to uphold their responsibilities to enforce the law and to protect their citizens and neighbors from known terrorist threats.

The United States will continue its efforts to combat the PKK and all other terrorist organizations and members, in Europe and around the globe. Together we must ensure that there will be no safe haven for terrorists.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.